



PUBLIC NOTICE

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**Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554**

**DA 02-1144
May 14, 2002**

**COMMENTS INVITED ON E.SPIRE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
APPLICATION TO DISCONTINUE DOMESTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SERVICES**

Comp. Pol. File No. 583

Comments Due: May 28, 2002

Section 214 Application

Applicant: e.spire Communications, Inc.

On **May 6, 2002**, **e.spire Communications, Inc.** (e.spire or Applicant) located at **12975 Worldgate Drive, Herndon, VA 20170**, filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission), requesting authority under section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214(a), and section 63.71 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, to discontinue certain of its domestic telecommunications services.

The application indicates that e.spire seeks authority to discontinue providing resold Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) and Internet Service Provider (ISP) services to approximately two-hundred sixty (260) customers in the states of Florida, Maryland, New York and Texas. Applicant explains that in order to conserve needed funds, it has decided to discontinue these services and has arranged with Covad Communications (Covad) to provide substitute service to the affected customers. According to the application, Covad and e.spire are cooperating to assure that the transfer is as seamless to customers as possible.

Applicant states that it has worked with Covad to jointly notify all affected customers of the proposed transfer. A sample customer notice letter attached to the application contained the

language required by Commission rules.¹

In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(c), the application will be deemed to be automatically granted on the thirty-first (31st) day after the release date of this notice, unless the Commission has notified Applicant that the grant will not be automatically effective. The Commission will

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(a)(5)(i).

normally authorize proposed discontinuances of service unless it is shown that customers or other end users would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier, or that the public convenience and necessity would be otherwise adversely affected.

This proceeding is considered a “permit but disclose” proceeding for purposes of the Commission's *ex parte* rules.² Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before **May 28, 2002**. Such comments should refer to **Comp. Pol. File No. 583**. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance on the commenter, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service. The original and four (4) copies of the comments should be sent to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. Two (2) copies of the comments should also be sent to the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Room 6-A207, Washington, DC 20554, Attention: Carmell Weathers. In addition, Comments should be served upon Applicant. Commenters are also requested to fax their comments to the FCC at (202) 418-2345, Attention: Carmell Weathers.

Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Vistrionix, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

The application will be available for review and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554, (202) 418-0270. A copy of the application may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402, Washington, DC, 20554, telephone 202-863-2893, facsimile 202-863-2898, or via e-mail at qualexint@aol.com.

For further information, contact Carmell Weathers, (202) 418-2325 (voice), cweather@fcc.gov, or Jon Minkoff (202) 418-2353 (voice), jminkoff@fcc.gov, of the Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau. The TTY number is (202) 418-0484. For further information on procedures regarding Section 214 please visit http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/cpd/other_adjud

-FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION-

² See generally 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200 - 1.1216.